

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in one or more related applications. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to incorporate certain elements from canceled claim 1. Claims 14-16 have been amended to incorporate certain elements from canceled claims 1 and 10. Claim 19 has been added to incorporate the remaining and/or language from Claim 10 into Claim 14. The amended claims continue to find support in the original claims as well as in the specification, for example, at page 1, lines 31-35; page 2, lines 13-28; page 3, lines 17-19 and lines 34-38; page 4, lines 3-16; and elsewhere. These amendments thus add no new matter. With this amendment, claims 3, 5, 6 and 14-19 are pending.

Claims 3, 5, 6 and 14 to 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim. Applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 6 and 14 to 18 accordingly, and added claim 19. Therefore, it is believed that all the claims pending in the application are now in condition for allowance. Notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Office's acceptance of the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Action at page 2. Without

acquiescing to the rejections and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 7.

Thus, the Examiner's rejections of claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are moot. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being "anticipated by Martin *et al.* (5,851,550)." Action at page 3. Without acquiescing to the rejections and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2 and 8-13, and have amended claims 3, 5 and 14-16 so that they no longer directly or indirectly depend from claim 1.

Thus, the Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 2 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are moot. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims 3, 5, 6 and 14-18.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 19-2570.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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